

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 105970 TOSEC 040125

FOR ATHERTON EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PFOR IS US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY-ALLON MEETING: REACTION TO U.S. ARMS
RESTRAINT PROPOSALS

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN TEL AVIV ,270 WHICH
SUMMARIZES ISRAELI REACTION TO INFORMATION THAT ISRAEL IS
NOT TO BE RECOMMENDED AS A PREFERRED STATE FOR MILITARY
SUPPLY IN THE PRM-12 PROPOSAL, WHICH IS BEING SUBMITTED TO
THE PRESIDENT FOR DECISION. ALLON HAS STATED PUBLICLY HE
WILL RAISE THIS MATTER WITH THE SECRETARY.

2. AS YOU RECALL, DINITZ TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY
TO US LAST FRIDAY ISRAEL'S DEEP CONCERN OVER THE PRM-12
PROPOSAL. HIS THREE PRINCIPAL POINTS WERE:

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-- THE PRM-12 RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD ALTER THE TYPE OF RELA-
TIONSHIP THAT HAS HITHERTO EXISTED BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE
U.S.. IT PLACES ISRAEL IN A DIFFERENT CATEGORY THAN NATO
COUNTRIES, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND JAPAN, AND IN THE
REST OF THE WORLD. ISRAEL CONSIDERS THE NATURE OF U.S.
COMMITMENTS TO BE AS BINDING AS THOSE TO THE AFOREMENTIONED
COUNTRIES. THE IMPLICATION OF THIS PROPOSAL IS THAT THERE

ARE DIFFERENT APPLICATIONS TO THE TWO CATEGORIES IN REGARD
TO AN ARMS TRANSFER CEILING, THE TRANSFER OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY ITEMS AND COPRODUCTION.

-- EVEN IF THERE WERE NO INTENT TO RESTRICT THE U.S.-ISRAEL MILITARY RELATIONSHIP, THE NATURE OF THE GUIDELINES WERE SUCH THAT IT WOULD MAKE ISRAEL A SECOND-CLASS CUSTOMER ON THE BUREAUCRATIC LEVEL AND THUS COMPLICATE THE EXISTING ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP.

-- ALTHOUGH DECISIONS MAY BE MADE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, THE PRM WILL BE INTERPRETED AS A HARDENING OF ISRAEL'S ABILITY TO OBTAIN ARMS AND, IN PARTICULAR, HIGH TECHNOLOGY ITEMS.

3. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE ISRAELI EMBASSY AND DINITZ PERSONALLY ARE MAKING A SERIOUS LOBBYING EFFORT ON THE HILL TO INTRODUCE AMENDMENTS TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT WHICH WOULD VITIATE POSSIBLE RESTRICTIVE APPLICATION OF PRM-12 TO ISRAEL AND REAFFIRM PUBLICLY ISRAEL'S SPECIAL STANDING IN U.S. MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIPS.

4. FYI - PRESS REPORTS FROM ISRAEL SUGGEST THAT DINITZ WAS CALLED IN ON FRIDAY FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PRM-12 RECOMMENDATIONS. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO CLARIFY WITH ALLON FOR THE RECORD THAT THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO CONVEY THE KFIR DECISION. DINITZ USED THE OCCASION TO GIVE US ISRAELI REACTIONS TO RUMORED
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PRM-12 PROPOSALS. PRESS REPORTS, AS YOU MAY HAVE NOTED, LEAVE THE IMPRESSION WITH US THAT DINITZ IS THE SOURCE OF THIS MISCASTING. CHRISTOPHER

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